

## Words from our president



Arkansas' Master Gardeners 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up. This is an important date and the way we celebrate could have a major impact on our program for years to come.

Since 1987 when Janet Carson trained eager gardeners from four central Arkansas counties, until today where 47 county agents are training new Master Gardeners in their counties annually, Master Gardening has touched the lives of literally thousands and thousands of folks. Not only have we touched those who became Master Gardeners and are still active, and those who, for whatever reason, have dropped out, but folks who learned by example from Master Gardeners over the past two decades. Many, many counties have flower gardens, landscaped public areas, etc., that would be bare had it not been for the energy and enthusiasm of Master Gardeners.

According to the 2007 annual report, 52 Master Gardener Programs in 60 counties have a total of 2,299 volunteers. This includes 353 newly trained MGs. In-service work hours totaled 100,306 with learning or recertification hours adding another 60,762 for a grand total of 162,068 volunteer hours. In dollar terms, using an \$18.77 per hour rate from the independent sector, this had an impact of more than \$3 million.

We are an elite group, with members from every walk of life; and we all have a common goal--to make Arkansas a more fertile, green, beautiful place to live and raise a family.

We have a committee working on this event (which could turn into many events). It's scheduled for Oct. 13 at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. But we invite your input in ways to celebrate. All suggestions are welcome and all will be reviewed and considered. So feel free to e-mail your ideas to me ([crwingfield@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crwingfield@sbcglobal.net)) or other County 76 officers. --Rosemary Wingfield

### Turn in Your Hours

It's hard to believe, but the first quarter of 2008 has ended. Attached to this newsletter is the revised hourly reporting form, which you may use to record your meeting and project hours and e-mail to Projects Chair Judy Woodard ([jw@shotgundans.com](mailto:jw@shotgundans.com)). Remember, County 76 members need at least 10 hours per year for recertification.



### Hurry to Register for Advanced Classes

**There's still time to register for the two April Advanced Master Gardener Training Classes. But hurry!!!**

Deadline for the White County class *Butterfly Gardening* (set for April 8-9) at Beebe is April 3. More than 40 have registered as of the middle of March, so the class is filling up quickly. Extension Agent Sherri Sanders has invited the advanced class participants to a Garden Party lecture on the evening of April 8.

Final day to register for Craighead County's *Hydrangeas & Hostas* (set for April 19) at Jonesboro is April 4th. So far there are 18 registered for the class.

Both are wonderful opportunities to jump-start your advanced education for 2008. Advanced classes are open to all Master Gardeners who have been in the MG program for at least three years and are in good standing in their county program.

---Darlene McGuire, Advanced Training Chair

### Early MG Conference Registration Ends April 1

There are less than 100 slots still open for the Arkansas Master Gardener conference in Springdale May 29-31. And the early registration deadline ends April 1. After that, the rate goes up to \$120. All registration and hotel information is on the Arkansas Master Gardener Only website that is password protected. Username: *mastergardener* and password: *compost*. [Click here to register!](#) Keynote speaker: **Roger Swain, former host of "The Victory Garden."**

# County 76 Monthly Bulletin

Find County 76 Information at: [http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/master\\_gardener.htm](http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/master_gardener.htm)

**Congratulations Franklin County!!!**

There are now 53 Master Gardener Programs in Arkansas. Franklin County recently completed its first basic training with 29 graduates. Welcome. We hope many of you will want to join County 76 later.

<b>Master Gardening Events for 2008</b>	
MG – Master Gardener Event P – Event open to the public	
April 1	Deadline for <b>EARLY</b> registration for 2008 State MG Meeting. (Registration began mid February). - <b>MG</b>
April 5	Ouachita Hosta & Shade Plant Society Mtg., Garland County Library, <b>501-984-2463 – P</b>
April 5	Saint Francis County Garden Show, <b>1-870-633-5767 - P</b>
April 5-6	Orchid Show at the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock <a href="mailto:rickenkaren@aristotle.net">ricknkaren@aristotle.net</a> – <b>P</b>
April 8	Arkansas County Spring Home & Garden Show, <b>1-870-946-3231 - P</b>
April 8	Vegetable Gardening in the Backyard, ASU - Beebe Farm. <b>501-268-5394 – P</b>
April 8 - 9	Advanced Master Gardener Training on butterfly gardens. - Beebe <b>(501)268-5394. - MG</b>
April 10	Deadline for submission for May issue County 76 Bulletin. Email <a href="mailto:crwingfield@sbcglobal.net">crwingfield@sbcglobal.net</a>
April 12	Saline County Garden Show, <b>1-501-303-5672 - P</b>
April 19	Advanced Master Gardener Training on hydrangeas, hostas. - Jonesboro <b>1-870-932-3661 - MG</b>
May 2-4	Orchid Show - Embassy Suites, Rogers, AR <b>479-925-2228 – P</b>
May 3-4	Little Rock Council of Garden Club Spring Tour - <b>P</b>
May 7	County 76 general membership meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the State Extension Office, Little Rock. Note: this date was changed from June 25. - <b>MG</b>
May 9	Registration closes for 2008 State MG Meeting.
May 13	Plant Propagation, Jim Robbins, U of A; ASU - Beebe Farm. <b>501-268-5394– P</b>
May 17-18	Native Plant ID Workshop at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Email <a href="mailto:sdavies@uawri.org">sdavies@uawri.org</a> or phone at <b>501 215-7990 – P</b>
May 29-31	State MG Meeting - Springdale Holliday Inn Convention Center - <b>MG</b>
June 12	A Day with Jane Carson – Newport - <b>P</b>
June 18-21	Southern Regional MG Conference, Oklahoma City, <a href="http://www.mastergardener2008.com">www.mastergardener2008.com</a> - <b>MG</b>
June 24	Fruit Field Day, U of A Fruit Research Station, Clarksville, <b>1-479-754-2406 - P</b>
June 26 - 27	Advanced MG Training on Plant Diseases & Insects. Identification & Management. More Later - <b>MG</b>
June 28	Tomatoes: From the Seed to the Plate Workshop at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Email <a href="mailto:sdavies@uawri.org">sdavies@uawri.org</a> or phone at <b>501 215-7990 - P</b>
July 31	Night Gardening Workshop at Garvan Gardens, Hot Springs, <b>1-800-366-4664 - P</b>
August 19-20	Leadership Training, 4-H Center, Ferndale - <b>MG</b>
October 7-8	County 76 Retreat at Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View - <b>MG</b>
October 10-12	Garvan Gardens Plant Sale, Hot Springs, <b>1-800-366-4664 – P</b>
October 11	Race for the Cure, downtown Little Rock. - <b>P</b>
October 13	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Arkansas Master Gardener Program. - <b>MG</b>
October 21	Garvan Bulb Workshop Hot Springs, <b>1-800-366-4664 - P</b>
November 1	Landscape Construction Design Workshop at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Email <a href="mailto:sdavies@uawri.org">sdavies@uawri.org</a> or <a href="mailto:rbyers@garvangardens.org">rbyers@garvangardens.org</a> - <b>P</b>
November 3	New Zealand trip: Registration info can be found on Calendar of Events at: <a href="http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly/default.htm">http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly/default.htm</a> - <b>MG</b>
<b>Email your hours to Judy Woodard at, <a href="mailto:jw@shotgundans.com">jw@shotgundans.com</a></b>	